

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image heating apparatus comprising:
a rotatable member contactable to a recording material
carrying an image; and
5 a limiting member for limiting movement of said
rotatable member in a direction of a generating
line of said rotatable member,
wherein said limiting member is provided with a
surface opposed to an outer peripheral surface at an
10 end portion of said rotatable member.

2. An apparatus according to Claim 1, further
comprising a roller, contacted to said rotatable
member, for forming, with said rotatable member, a nip
15 for nipping the recording material.

3. An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein
said rotatable member is flexible such that when the
nip is formed, said rotatable member is deformed.
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4. An apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein in
the peripheral surface of said rotatable member
includes a surface portion which is in contact to the
opposed surface of said limiting member and a surface
25 portion which is out of contact from the opposed
surface of said limiting member, when the nip is
formed.

5. An apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said limiting member rotates with said rotatable member by friction at the surface portion which is in contact to the opposed surface of said limiting member.

6. An apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein when said rotatable member and said roller are spaced from each other, a diameter of a surface opposed to the peripheral surface of said limiting member is larger than a diameter of the peripheral surface of said rotatable member.

7. An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein an outer diameter a of said rotatable member, and a difference δt between a diameter of a surface of said limiting member opposed to the peripheral surface of said limiting member and a diameter of the peripheral surface of said rotatable member, satisfy 0.009 is equal to or smaller than $\delta t/a$ which is equal to or smaller than 0.03 .

8. An apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein δt is 0.3 mm - 1.0 mm .

9. An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said limiting member further includes a second surface

for receiving an end surface of said rotatable member, and an angle formed between the surface opposed to the outer peripheral surface and the second surface is larger than 90 degrees.

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10. An apparatus according to Claim 2 , further comprising a holder for rotatably holding said limiting member.

10 11. An apparatus according to Claim 10 , wherein said holder is effective to limit movement of said limiting member in the direction of the generating line.

15 12. An apparatus according to Claim 10 , further comprising a guiding member for guiding said rotatable member inside said rotatable member, wherein said holder is directly or indirectly fixed to said guiding member.

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13. An apparatus according to Claim 1 , wherein said limiting member is made of heat-resistive resin material.

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14. An apparatus according to Claim 1 , wherein said rotatable member has a metal layer.

15. An apparatus according to Claim 14, further comprising a coil for generating a magnetic field for inducing eddy currents in said metal layer, wherein the image on the recording material is heated by heat
5 from said metal layer in which heat is produced by the eddy currents.

16. An apparatus according to Claim 1 , further comprising a heater contacted to an inner peripheral
10 surface of said rotatable member, wherein the image on the recording material is heated by heat from said heater through said rotatable member.

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